Rackheath Primary School Newsletter



Friday 9th October 2026

Class Assemblies in the hall from 2:45 – Year 1 kick off our class assemblies next Thursday. A full list of dates is below. (If we have to change any of the dates, we will let you know as soon as possible) Parents should arrive for 2:40.

- Thursday 15th October – Year 1
- Thursday 22nd October– Year 2
- Wednesday 11th November – Year 3
- Thursday 12th November – Year 5
- Wednesday 18th November – Year 4
- Thursday 19th November – Reception
- Thursday 26th November – Year 6

Scholastic Book Fair

I just wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who visited our Book Fair and helped make it a massive success! In total, £1,159 was spent, which means that the school will receive £579 worth of free books to update our library. It was brilliant to see the hall so packed with enthusiastic readers. We couldn't have done it without you – so thanks again for your amazing support. Happy reading!

SCHOLASTIC Book Fair

Mr Edwards



Parent's Evening

The first parent's evening of the year is on Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th October. The sign-up sheet went out earlier this week on SCOPAY. If you are having any problems booking up, please let the office know.

Boys Football v White Woman Lane – The boys team played their second game of the season on Tuesday away at White Woman Lane. The game was a closely matched contest throughout. At half time it was 0-0. Just after half time White Woman Lane scored but the boys stayed positive and equalised through a smart finish from Louis. Both teams made some good chances but it was White Woman Lane who took their chance right at the end to win 2-1. A tough defeat to take but the boys should be proud of their team work and commitment. Well done to them all; a special mention to Finley, Ben and Arlo who made their debuts for the school as well as Max, Sid, Alfie, Louis, Stanley and Jack.

No Year 3 & 4 Football Club Thursday 15th October – The boy's team have a home match against Firside on Thursday so there will be no football club on that date for Year 3 and 4.

Vacancy



We currently have a job opportunity at our school for a **Midday Supervisor**. This is a great opportunity for someone who enjoys working with children and would like to support them during lunchtime, ensuring they are safe, happy and well cared for. If you are interested or would like more information about the role, please get in touch with the school office.

Upcoming Dates:



- Tuesday 13th October — Year 5 Sutton Hoo Trip
- Tues 20th/Weds 21st October — Parent's Evening
- Wednesday 21st October — Cluster Football



Bombers

"Where did the rain come from?" asked one of our practitioners. Looking rather puzzled that such a question even needed asking, a child replied, *"Well... there was a big cloud and all the rain came out of that!"* gesturing to the side with his hand, as though the answer should have been perfectly obvious. Well, that certainly cleared things up!

It has been another wonderful fortnight at Bombers, with our *Kings, Queens & Our Kingdom* adventures continuing in full swing! Our budding builders worked together to create a magnificent castle, complete with colourful, patterned brickwork. There were plenty of discussions about who might live inside, with kings, queens and the royal family naturally topping the guest list! We also explored brave knights, dragons and the importance of persevering and trying again.

Our royal adventures then took us on journeys near and far as the children explored different types of transport and created their own maps from home to Bombers. From buses and bicycles to parks, houses and even horses along the way, there were some wonderful conversations about the places we pass and the different ways we travel.

We have also been busy exploring numbers through sensory activities and discovering the wonderful world of chess. One particularly enthusiastic chess player declared, *"This one is gooda from all the toys!"* We think chess may have gained another little fan!



Autumn has brought its own excitement too, with a visit to our apple garden to collect apples for some delicious homemade muffins. The children thoroughly enjoyed picking their apples, following the recipe, mixing ingredients and taking turns. A lovely hands-on experience, with a rather tasty reward at the end!

It has been a fortnight full of imagination, curiosity, teamwork and wonderful conversations. We look forward to another exciting week of learning and discovery at Bombers!

Reception

We have had another couple of superb weeks in reception class. We have started doing our scarf dancing to music - the children have loved learning all the actions and waving the scarves whilst singing too! We tried a pirate themed one yesterday as our new sound was 'p!'

We have been loving our phonics lessons - we have a special book box in which we hide different high quality story books each day connected to the sounds we're learning - the children become sound detectives and try to find the sounds from our lessons! But our favourite part is when they 'read' the stories together e.g. "I've got this one at home!" "Daddy reads me this one!" and when they're sharing a book with a friend - explaining the story: "Look, the dog found the books!" Please do remember, we ask for 3 x week reading at home – we collate this **every Friday** and thought this information would be useful as we had quite a few children who had read twice so didn't quite get their reading star point for 3 x week. Therefore, we got *16 children out of 27* who had read 3 x week at home. Excitingly, we have started going to the Friday Star, Angel, Diamond celebration assemblies so the children now know if they read at home, we could win Reading Bear! (And by read, we mean practising with their sound pots – many thanks).

In maths, we have been working hard on number recognition and formation with plenty of hands-on activities and games. We've learned lots of counting songs and for those children who are really confident with numbers, we have been timing our classmates when they take the register back to the office and we have been hitting some pretty big numbers!

Next week, we are going to explore a more autumnal feel with a traditional tale… and perhaps even create something to eat linked to the story!



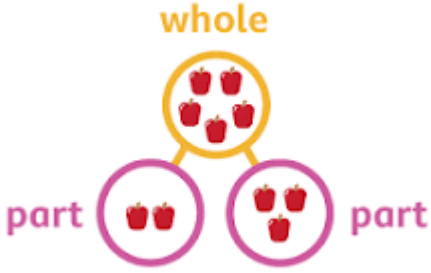
Year 1

A super couples of weeks in Year 1. The children are getting settled into the Year 1 routine now and we've been seeing some superb effort from everyone. Last week's Norwich Castle trip was a great success. We all had a fantastic day exploring the castle and finding out what life was like when the castle was first build!

On Wednesdays after PE we are currently introducing the class to the 'Zones of Regulation', which they will have touched on last year in Reception. We use this framework and lessons across the school in order to help the children understand and manage their emotions, behaviours, and sensory needs. It's a great tool for understanding your child's emotions and for supporting them in understanding them too. For more information about it you can have a look online: https://zonesofregulation.com/

In English last week we continued our book: Little Red Riding Hood and have been practising our writing skills to produce instructions for LRRH about not going into the woods. The children have been making sure that they remember their capital letters, full stops, finger spaces and using bossy verbs. This week the children have been writing instructions for how to make a LRRH snack.

Last week in Maths we have continued to use our greater than, less than and equal to symbols to compare numbers. The children have been reading numbers between 0-30 and putting them in order from smallest to largest. We have also been asking the children questions such as 'which number is the greatest? Which number is the smallest? Is 14 greater than 21? Is 9 less than 12? etc. This week we have moved onto adding 1-digit numbers together by counting objects. We have been using the part-whole model to help us to understand.



Next Thursday is our Year 1 class assembly at 2.40pm. Please come along to see what your child has been up to so far this term.

Year 2

The highlight of last week was our exciting trip to Norwich Castle! The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the castle, looking out over the battlements and taking part in lots of activities to help prepare the castle for the King's arrival. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the day.

In English, we have been developing the skills we will need to write a recount of our trip to Norwich Castle. We began by building simple sentences using a who + doing structure (subject and verb), before developing these into who + doing + what sentences. We have also been practising writing in the first person and using the past tense to accurately recount events.

In Maths, we have continued our learning about place value. We have explored number lines, placing tens and ones on number lines and estimating where different numbers should go. We have also been comparing numbers using the vocabulary greater than, less than and equal to, as well as using the corresponding symbols.

In Topic, we have been learning all about castles! We explored the different parts of a castle and labelled them before learning more about why Norwich has a castle. We also investigated a knight's armour and labelled its different parts. We then looked in more depth at shields and coats of arms, thinking about the symbols, colours and designs used to represent people and families. The children enjoyed designing and making their own pizza shields!

We have also begun exploring the famous artwork 'Castle and Sun', which we will be using as inspiration to create our own versions next week. We are very excited to see the children's finished artwork!







Year 3

What another busy couple of weeks we have had! In Maths, we have been busy counting in fifties to complete our place value unit. We have now moved on to adding and subtracting ones, tens and hundreds from 2-digit and 3-digit numbers. The children have been developing their understanding of place value and applying this to different calculations.

In English, we have continued our work on Charlotte's Web. The children have used a variety of adjectives to describe the farmyard from Wilbur's point of view, thinking about how he finds it rather boring and unattractive! We have also explored expanded noun phrases to describe our main characters, Charlotte and Wilbur. This week, the children have been busy planning, writing and editing their own narratives from Wilbur's perspective. It has been wonderful to see their creativity and developing writing skills.

We have now completed our first Geography unit, where the children have learned lots about our local area and explored how Rackheath has changed over the years. We have also looked at the Romans, learning about trade during the Roman Empire and exploring what some of our local settlements were called during Roman times.

In Art, we have been learning about the artist Henri Rousseau and exploring his famous painting Surprise! We have looked closely at the colours and tones used in the artwork and created our own colour swatches to explore different shades of green. This week, we focused on the tiger, carefully observing the light, medium and dark shades within the painting and creating our own swatches to represent these.

Have a wonderful weekend. 😊

Year 4



Wow, we have squeezed lots into the last two weeks! In English we finished our work on the story 'Escape from Pompeii'. As part of this we spent time working towards writing a diary entry, the children edited examples, identified features and carefully planned before writing their final pieces. To help us develop our ideas we looked at some maps of Pompeii and explored all the areas of the town. Over the last few days, we have started looking at a poem in English titled 'I am a Roman Soldier'. Before half term we will use this to inspire our own poems. All our English work has linked with our topic work starting to look at the Romans. We looked at old Roman town names in England and compared them to modern names.

In Maths last week we finished our place value work before moving on to addition and subtraction. In our new unit we have been revisiting the basics of adding and subtracting before we begin the challenging stuff after half term.



This has included adding and subtracting 1, 10, 100 and next week 1000! We have looked at when we need to exchange and which column, we need to look at each time. In Art we have continued looking at shades and tints as well as learning tricks for how to draw a tree. Finally, we have spent some time using the new chrome books in school! Initially, we practiced how to login in and out as this can prove to be quite the challenge. After that we made our own google slides all about ourselves, this was a great opportunity for the children to show all their previous knowledge.

Year 5

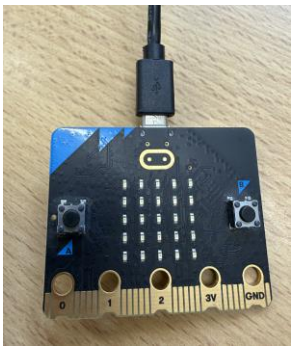
It's been another fantastic couple of weeks in Year 5, with a variety of activities taking place! During Maths lessons, we concluded our unit of work on finding the difference between positive and negative numbers. Since then, we have moved on to using column addition, as well as retaining a variety of 'tricks' to calculate mentally.

In English, the class completed their formal letters linked to our class book, Boy Overboard. These outlined the children's feelings regarding the unfair government rules and the unsafe environment. We also got to use the Chromebooks for further coding lessons. Two of these focused on using Micro: bits, which are pocket-sized computers. The children used their coding skills to program the Micro: bits to perform a range of challenges.

In Science, we had two lessons linked to properties and materials. The children had to think of a variety of household items, list the materials they are made from, and explain why those materials are ideal. They also had to predict which materials would slow the melting of an ice cube, while remembering to use scientific vocabulary. Our main topic lesson this week was for the class to design their own Anglo-Saxon storyboard explaining the key events of this era. Finally, they learned about 'illuminated letters' and created their own using the first initial of their name.

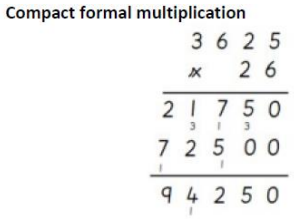


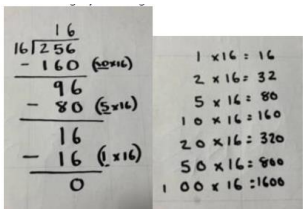




Year 6

This week in maths we have been looking at formal multiplication and division, which did cause us a few issues to start with but with some hard work and going back to basics, we managed to get it nailed on! I have included two images which show how we have been doing it, should you wish to support at home.





In English, sentence structure has been a key focus through our class bool Goodnight, Mister Tom. We have found that for a sentence to be complete, it must have a subject and a verb. We have used this, along with our work around speech and adverbials, to write a short story linked to the children of the book.

In History, the children pretended that they were a building company who were looking to build Anglo Saxon houses in our new village. They had to research what materials were needed, how they would look, and how long they would take to build. Each group then presented their company and I offered two groups the job!

In science, we have been looking and thermal insulators and conductors. I challenged the children to design a cup that would keep my drink as warm as possible for the longest time. We had cups made or clay, wool, cotton, bubble wrap, cling film, material, papier-Mache and foil! We were all surprised to see that the cotton wool cup was the best insulator!



Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 2 who had **21 out of 30** and
Year 6 who had **30 out of 32**

of their children read to their family at least 3 times at home this week!

Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 1 who had

100%

attendance last week.
Attendance Bear will be in Reception Class next week!

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Liviah, Elle, Marley
Year 1	Marcia, Alfie, Alice
Year 2	Theo K, Harry, Oakley
Year 3	Rocco, Mabel, Tyler
Year 4	William, Niamh. Klarka
Year 5	Elsie, William, Tristan
Year 6	Max, Ava, Jacob P